

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SCCT-01 /033 W

----- 089164

O 021300Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3255

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SA

SUBJECT: CRASH OF OF MEA AIRLINER IN SAUDI ARABIA

1. SAUDI CIVIL AVIAITON OFFICIALS ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF THE MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES BOEING 720B WHICH CRASHED YESTERDAY, JAN 1, IN SAUDI TERRITORY DURING A FLIGHT FROM BEIRUT TO DUBAI.

2. SHEIKH ABDULLAH MAHDI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, TOLD THE DATT TODAY THAT THE CRASH WAS STILL UNEXPLAINED BUT IMPLIED THE AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE BEEN CARRYING A BOMB. HE SAID THE AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING AT 37,000 FEET AND HAD BEEN IN ROUTINE CONTACT WITH KUWAIT UNTIL 0430 LOCAL TIME WHEN COMMUNICATIONS WERE LOST. AT 0530, WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WAS DETERMINED TO BE OVERDUE, A SEARCH WAS INITATED AND THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND ABOUT 30 MILES NORTH OF QAISUMA (28-20N 46-10E), NEAR THE IRAQI BORDER. THE AIRCRAFT, HE SAID, WAS DEMOLISHED.

3. ACCORDING TO MAHDI, THERE WERE A TOTAL OF SIXTY-SIX

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PASSENGERS AND FIFTEEN CREW ABOARD. ALL WERE KILLED. THE BODIES

OF 74 HAVE BEEN LOCATED AND TAKEN TO DHAHRAN. MAHDI SAID THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PASSENGERS WERE ARABS. HE SAID ONE PASSENGER, NAMED STEVENSON COULD BE AN AMERICAN, BUT THAT THEY HAD NO INDICATION AS YET OF THE NATIONALITIES OF ANY PASSENGERS OR CREW.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE CHECKING WITH SAUDI CIVIL AVIATION AND ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY OF THE PASSENGERS WERE US CITIZENS.  
HORAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976JIDDA00012  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760001-0276  
**From:** JIDDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CRASH OF OF MEA AIRLINER IN SAUDI ARABIA  
**TAGS:** EAIR, SA, MEA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006